



# The Beehive

Vol. 25, Issue 2 \* March 2009 \* Christ Episcopal Church, Norway, ME 04268 \* 207-743-6782  
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## DEAR CHRIST CHURCH FAMILY—

A few years back I read a story about a young girl who went with her mother to her church's Ash Wednesday service. After hearing about evil and wretchedness and sin, the girl received ashes on her forehead and then whispered to her mother, "I know I'm bad, but I'm not *that* bad!"

The girl was only 9 years old, so she probably wasn't "that bad." And maybe we aren't that bad, either.....Or maybe we're even worse!

But the point of Ash Wednesday, and Lent which follows, isn't about wallowing in how bad we are, or groveling in the knowledge of the sins we commit, or about getting stuck in shame, or guilt, or gloom or fear. Lent isn't about cringing in a perpetual state as wretched sinners.

Lent is about hope, hope in the reconciling love of God which comes through the Cross of Christ. Our prayer book's Ash Wednesday service directs us beautifully to that truth. (If you didn't make it to one of the services that day, open your prayer book to page 264 and pray those prayers!)

Dwelling deep in God's reconciling love does require that we acknowledge whatever large or small things in our lives separate us from God. Little things, huge things, things we are already aware of, things that Lent can draw our attention to. Lent helps to open us up to ourselves, a time of self-revelation, hard as that may be. Lent is the time to come to terms with all those obstacles which stand in the way of an open relationship with God who is so longing for us. But we do all that hard work with hope as our companion.

"Lent" means, literally, "long spring days." Spring may seem eons away at this snowy moment in the foothills of Western Maine; but the days are getting longer, and spring really is around the corner. We can think of Lent, I think, as a time for spring cleaning: of our souls and bodies, our hearts and minds. Like getting ready for a yard sale, deliberately figuring out what we don't need any more and what is good to hang onto.

The Bible doesn't tell us about Lent, of course. But our tradition has made it our custom. We need Lent as a way to guide us, as individuals and as a community of faith, in our walk with Jesus to his death and resurrection, as a way of mindfully repenting and making a new beginning, as a way of preparing to renew our vows of Baptism at Easter, so we can rejoice anew in God's promise of forgiveness and new life.

May you all enjoy a blessed and good and useful Lent,

## LENTEN STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Here's a question: If God is good and merciful and all-powerful, then how come there is so much evil in the world? Can't God stop it? Why do good things happen to bad people, and bad things happen to good people?

Those questions are what we call questions of *theodicy*.

Thirteen Christ Church-ers spent several days on retreat in January at the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Massachusetts, delving into the matter of theodicy. The question of God and evil.

This is a good topic for Lenten study: recognizing evil in ourselves and in our world, and seeking God in the midst of it. God and we and evil.

For three Sundays we will be exploring the theme of theodicy over lunch after the second Sunday service: March 15, 22 and 29. We will consider what the Bible says about God and evil. We will consider what our religious tradition has to say about theodicy, and what other traditions say.

And we will listen to each other to learn what we say about God and the presence of evil.

There is no textbook for these sessions, although as we approach the first session, some suggested Bible readings will be announced. Basically, the requirement is to come with thoughts and questions. We should have a lively time!

A sign up sheet will be posted for soup, fruit and bread lunch offerings.

In November we heard from several parishioners, the stories of their journeys of faith. Here is **Carlyn Watts'** own story:

I am a cradle Episcopalian. I feel very blessed with that distinction and very grateful that my parents were both Episcopalians and raised me in the church. We weren't a particularly religious family, but we were expected to go to church every Sunday and to attend Sunday School. Easter in our home didn't mean Easter baskets and egg hunts – it was having new patent leather shoes, little white gloves, and a new straw bonnet for the Easter service! And I loved attending church camp every summer. In the 50s and 60s, the Diocese of Maine had a wonderful summer camp, both for grade school and high school age kids. I have fabulous memories of playing softball with Bishop Loring and other clergy from around the state! I was baptized at St. Savior's in Bar Harbor but became a member of St. Luke's Cathedral when my family moved to the Portland area when I was about 10. I was confirmed at the Cathedral, met my husband at the high school youth group at the Cathedral, we were married at the Cathedral, and our two children were baptized there. However, when our children were of school age, we moved to a different community and transferred our membership to another Episcopal church in the area.

We were a normal church-going family, the kids attended Sunday school regularly (not always willingly) and they were acolytes and took part in pageants, etc. However, once the kids had left the nest and I could focus more on myself and what was going on in my life, I realized that I wasn't really happy or comfortable with my faith, and my spiritual life certainly was lacking something. We were traveling a lot in our motor home so it was easy for me not to attend church. Also, I really didn't feel comfortable with anyone to talk to about what I was experiencing. I was struggling with my faith, my doubts, and I had too many questions that weren't being answered.

Then in 1996 my mother died, very suddenly and unexpectedly. I was devastated, as we all are when we lose a loved one. I not only lost my mother, but I lost my best friend. She died just a couple of months before my first grandchild was to be born and she and I were so looking forward to sharing that new joy in our lives. Anyway, in my grief I realized that I needed God in my life. Occasionally I would accompany my Dad to church and I witnessed how his strong faith was helping him with his grief, but I was struggling with it.

About this same time, my husband retired and we built our new home on the lake in Otisfield. My Dad was slowly being taken away from us with Alzheimer's but I remember one morning, I peeked into his room to see if he was ready to get up for the day and there he was on his knees, kneeling at his bedside like a little child, saying his prayers. I thought, my goodness, he doesn't know who we are most of the time, or where he is, but he hasn't forgotten God. I knew then that I needed to get back to where I was and get "rebooted." I realized that God is with us through good times and bad and it's up to us to keep his love with us through it all. I just didn't know quite how to go about it – until the morning I stepped through the doors of Christ Church. I knew instantly what had been missing in my life and I felt I was "back home again." Before I had even met anyone, I felt the spirit embrace me and welcome me. For a few weeks, I snuck in and out at the 8 o'clock service. Of course, I met Anne and she made me feel very welcome, but I had never attended church alone before and I was shy and nervous about taking this on by myself. It didn't take long, however, before I got up my courage to come to the 10 o'clock service and to walk out those doors and down the hall to coffee hour.

I knew I was where I belonged. I had been lost for awhile, but now I was found and I was where God wanted me to be and all was forgiven.

Just a year ago this month, I lost my father which was a bit different from when my mother died. He was 95 and was totally gone from us with Alzheimers. Even though it was time for him to go, however, it was still a grieving process, but this time I had my faith to keep me strong and I had the community of Christ Church to fall back on as well. As one of my favorite authors and poet, Maya Angelou, wrote in one of her poems, "When I say I am a Christian, I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide. When I say I am a Christian, I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on."

- Carlyn Watts

## Why Do We Go to Church?

"...to express our faith in God, to be part of the community of hope and together to be sent out to be witnesses of God's love."

From the book, Why Do We Go to Church ?, by Timothy Radcliffe, with a forward by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, rephrased by book reviewer, Lois Sibley, writing in Episcopal Life

## FINANCIAL RECAP FOR JANUARY 2009

Operating Income.....	\$18,612.
Operating Expense.....	\$13,343.
	\$ 5,269.

Pledges paid in advance accounted for a favorable cash position in January.

- Tom Knight  
Treasurer

**WORSHIP AND OTHER PERSONNEL – MARCH 2009**

**PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SERVE ON A SCHEDULED DATE, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT AND LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW THAT PERSON'S NAME BY THE TUESDAY MORNING BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED DAY.**

	MARCH 01	MARCH 08	MARCH 15	MARCH 22	MARCH 29
<b><u>EUCH. MINISTER</u></b> 8:00 A.M.	Sue Emerson	Peter Hammond	Peter Bickford	Lynn Brown	Mary Bickford
10:00 A.M.	Thelma Cunningham	Barbi Tinder	Allan Crane	Chris Pottle	Carlyn Watts
<b><u>ACOLYTE</u></b> 8:00 A.M.	Sue Emerson	Peter Hammond	Peter Bickford	Lynn Brown	Peter Bickford
10:00 A.M.	Carlyn Watts	Thelma Cunningham	Andy Churchill	T.Cunningham	Rachel Brennan
<b><u>LECTOR</u></b> 10:00 A.M.	Barbara Rooth-NT	Caroline Leonard-OT	Bob/Jane Dann-NT	Ted Kehn-OT	Merton Lord-NT
<b><u>USHERS</u></b> 8:00 A.M.	Hank Emerson	Ann Bickford	Mary Bickford	Barry Vaill	Sandy Luke
10:00 A.M.	Bill & Jane Gibson	Henry & Pat Stewart	Beulah Ayer Bonnie Trundy	Judy Gideonse Jane Dann	Peter Blackman David Stanley
<b><u>COUNTERS</u></b>	T. Cunningham Chris Pottle	David Stanley Henry Stewart	Bernice Kehn Bill Gibson	Tom Knight Chris Pottle	Marcia Pottle David Stanley
<b><u>COFFEE HOUR</u></b>	Anne Brown	Christine Hebert	Pat Brennan	Marcia Pottle	Cheryl Willey
<b><u>ALTAR GUILD</u></b>	Feb. 21—March 06 Helga Thurston Beulah Ayer	March 07—Mar. 20 Martha Eaton Cheryl Willey Mary Bickford		March 21—April 03 Joanne Lowell Jan Wall	

**WORSHIP AND OTHER PERSONNEL – APRIL 2009**

**PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SERVE ON A SCHEDULED DATE, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT AND LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW THAT PERSON'S NAME BY THE TUESDAY MORNING BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED DAY.**

	APRIL 05	APRIL 12 EASTER	APRIL 19	APRIL 26
<b><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u></b> 8:00 A.M.	Al Barth	Sue Emerson	Peter Bickford	Lynn Brown
10:00 A.M.	Barbi Tinder	Tom Knight	Chris Pottle	Thelma Cunningham
<b><u>ACOLYTE</u></b> 8:00 A.M.	Al Barth	Sue Emerson	Peter Bickford	Lynn Brown
10:00 A.M.	Thelma Cunningham	Andy Churchill	Carlyn Watts	Rachel Brennan
<b><u>LECTOR</u></b>	Lynn Brown-OT	Keith Willoughby-NT	Barbara Rooth-OT	Rosemary Laban-NT
<b><u>USHERS</u></b> 8:00 A.M.	Ann Bickford	Hank Emerson	Mary Bickford	Sandy Luke
10:00 A.M.	Carlyn Watts Jodi Carter	Tim & Donna Churchill	Beulah Ayer Bonnie Trundy	Jane Dann David Stanley
<b><u>COUNTERS</u></b>	Lynn Brown Tom Knight	Marcia Pottle Peter Blackman	Davis Stanley Chris Pottle	Thelma Cunningham Bill Gibson
<b><u>COFFEE HOUR</u></b>	Lynne Orsini	Beulah Ayer Bonnie Trundy	Evelyn McAuliffe	Alison Whitney
<b><u>ALTAR GUILD</u></b>	Apr. 4—17 EASTER Thelma Cunningham Lynne Orsini Mary Bickford		April 18-May 1 Lynn Brown Bernice Kehn	

**Chili Supper/Bobby Crocker Cake-Off**

---**Mark April 17th** on your calendar. We will have three kinds of chili—Regular, Turkey, and Cashew Chili. This will be followed by the Bobby Crocker Cake-off, and an auction. Everyone is asked to bring a special item from home that you no longer need. Remember, your trash is someone else's treasure. This promises to be an real fun evening. Sign up sheets will be posted in a few weeks. Just watch for them.

- Lynne Orsini

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 01 Dorothy Cyr
- 03 Kevin Klingler  
Ted Hards
- 05 Jesse Leonard  
Carolee Garcia
- 06 Peter Mills
- 07 Megan Keiser
- 08 Jim Toner
- 12 Catherine Bickford  
Elizabeth Stanley
- 14 Lynn Brown  
Hank Emerson
- 15 Laurie Jones
- 16 Carlyn Watts
- 19 Thelma Cunningham
- 20 Anya Trundy
- 25 James Gates
- 30 Susan Morin  
Michael Trundy
- 31 Kathy Whittier



**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

- 28 Alvin & Lee Barth
- 31 Bob & Jane Dann



**Episcopal Relief and Development (ER&D) - Our Annual Appeal**

For many years now, The Outreach Committee has been coming to you on the Second Sunday in Advent with an annual appeal to support ER&D. ER&D has lately urged parishes to make their common appeal in Lent, and last fall our Diocesan Convention passed a resolution asking all parishes in Maine to coordinate their appeal for ER&D to the First Sunday in Lent. The Vestry has agreed with this date, and so we are making this appeal just 3 months after our last campaign. It will be our only formal appeal for 2009. Please respond generously.

Most Beehive readers will be familiar with Episcopal Relief and Development from our past annual appeals. Those of you who have donated in the past should now be receiving ER&D newsletters which detail how your donations are being used. More information is available in the December/January Beehive as well as brochures, catalogs and envelopes in the Guild Room. Envelopes will also be in the Bulletin for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent (March 1). Please make checks payable to ER&D, not Christ Church.

- Chris Pottle, for the Outreach Committee



**AROUND THE PARISH:**

Our condolences go to **Carlyn and Martin Watts** on the recent deaths of Martin's mother, Joyce, and Ronnie MacQuinn, Carlyn's cousin.

**Kathy Whittier** writes from Texas: "I am finding many exciting ways to minister in our present location in a large RV park in Mission, Texas. I am teaching English in a home to four Mexican-American moms while their 6 toddlers play at our feet. I am teaching Spanish to 30-40 retirees in our park. We are also involved in a youth ministry project for the youth of Western Texas Episcopal Diocese. While the parents are at convention, the youth will be painting 5 houses, planting trees, and cleaning up garbage in a low-income development. Poverty and unemployment are very high in this part of Texas. But the weather is beautiful. It's the warmest part of the continental U.S."

**Anne and David Stanley** are back from Costa Rica having visited their daughter, Katherine and her husband Adrian, visiting different churches, riding horses, enjoying the sun, coming back to snow, snow, snow! They visited the president of Costa Rica while they were there and presented him with a Christ Church mug.

We have a new Zeke in the parish. **Bonnie and Jeff Pfeifer** name their new puppy Zeke—after Zeke Trask, who they had enjoyed talking to at coffee hour.

**Barbi Tinder** was in Alabama recently for a national training event for United Thank Offering coordinators.

**Jeanne and Jim Byers** have been to Boston for the ballet, and **Alison Whitney** visited her daughter and granddaughter in California and was there for the little girl's first birthday.

- Thelma Cunningham

*Please continue to pray for....* Keith, David, Karen, George, Pearl, Abby, Brendan, Forest, Kayla, Bill, Rose, Chris, and Toivo

**MARCH CALENDAR**

03	11:30A.M..	Women's Bible Study
04	Noon	Men's Lunch
	7:00 P.M.	Choir rehearsal
08	11:15 A.M.	Vestry
09	Noon	Centering Prayer
11	10:30 A.M.	Outreach Committee
	6:00 P.M.	Worship Committee
	7:00 P.M.	Choir rehearsal
14	9:00 A.M.	Vestry Meeting with Terry Reimer
15	11:30 A.M.	Lenten Study
18	Noon	Men's Lunch
	7:00 P.M.	Choir rehearsal
22	11:30 A.M.	Lenten Study
23	Noon	Centering Prayer
25	Noon	Men's Lunch
	7:00 P.M.	Choir rehearsal
29	11:30 A.M.	Lenten Study

Morning Prayer continues at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

## 2008 OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

I would like to share the highlights of the Outreach Committee's work during the past year:

The first Outreach project of the year occurs in January when we publicize our Parish's support for the Food Pantry by blessing donated food. We collect and bless food four times a year. Bob Dann has overseen this quarterly event since its inception in 2005. The public blessing reminds parishioners to contribute food throughout the year, thus increasing donations to the Food Pantry.

In February, Pat and I returned to Guatemala and spent a day at Safe Passage in Guatemala City. We took our Church's third grade sponsor child, Julian Reyes, to Pizza Hut for lunch. Julian liked the large play area in the restaurant even more than the pizza. The Stewart's sponsor child, Mariellos Gomez, also came along and enjoyed both pizza and playground.

The annual contribution for Julian's support is \$600.00. The Outreach Committee pays half of this and raises the other half from the Parish. One Sunday in July, Pat put up a display of colorful photographs she had taken of children at Safe Passage. Parishioners subsequently contributed a total of \$430.00 toward Julian's education.

After Church on June 29<sup>th</sup>, Cindy and Steve Obenhaus spoke to thirty-five parishioners about their work at Maison de Naissance, a birthing center in rural Haiti. The Outreach Committee has supported MN since 2004 as part of our diocesan partnership with the Diocese of Haiti. During that time, MN has reduced neonatal mortality in the area it serves to less than 1/3 of the national average.

Rosemary Bunn-Laban coordinated another successful blood drive with St Catherine's this past August. About twenty-five parishioners volunteered as callers, registrars, canteen workers, escorts, t-shirt and gift distributors and, of course, donors. The Red Cross collected 137 units of blood, making our drive one of the most profitable drives for the Red Cross in Maine.

In September, Cindy Obenhaus alerted us to the devastation caused by several hurricanes that struck Haiti earlier in the month. While suffering damage to the electrical system, Maison de Naissance continued to operate and treat prenatal patients. We conducted an ingathering, and parishioners donated \$616.25 to the MN Emergency Relief Fund to install a new and upgraded electrical system and make other repairs to the building.

The Outreach Committee voted in October to transfer \$600.00 from undesignated funds to the Rector's Discretionary Fund to provide heating assistance to parishioners and others in the community who will need help in heating their homes this coming winter. The Committee has also increased the Rector's Discretionary Fund in 2009 for the same purpose.

The Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Catherine's was the best ever. Approximately 135 people attended the dinner, and additional meals were prepared for shut-ins and for attendees to take home. About twenty parishioners either contributed pies or other desserts or volunteered to set-up or to clean-up. The Outreach Committee makes an annual contribution to cover approximately one-half of the cost of the dinner.

Parishioners also contributed \$221.00 this year for food for three Thanksgiving baskets that were prepared and delivered by Mary Tolman and the Rector to needy families just before Thanksgiving.

Susan Morin has for some years coordinated our Church's participation in Angel Tree, a ministry of Church volunteers who purchase and deliver Christmas gifts to the children of prisoners. The number of gifts has grown every year. This year sixteen people contributed to provide presents to thirteen children. Thanks also to Bolster's for delivering most of these gifts.

In December, Chris Pottle made his annual appeal to the Parish on behalf of the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. This year, Chris raised \$4244 from nine families. This is a remarkable level of contribution for a Church of our size.

I have been proud to chair this excellent Committee for five years but am pleased to turn the leadership over to Peter Bickford who will chair the Committee going forward. Thank you all for your support of our Outreach ministry during 2008.

- Henry Stewart, for the Outreach Committee

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
35 Paris Street, Norway, ME 04268



MARCH 2009

### PRAYER CHAIN

### Cans for Christ Church

One of the “special projects” which we discussed at Annual Meeting last month was the idea of collecting returnable cans and bottles at Christ Church as a fundraiser. Therefore, I have set up an account in the name of Christ Church at Paynes Redemption Center, and I have put a couple of containers in the undercroft for collection. Please feel free to deposit your returnables in these containers any time, **but please be sure all cans and bottles are rinsed out!** We don’t want the room to have an unpleasant odor. You may also drop off your bags of returnables at Paynes (82 Park Street, South Paris). Just mark the bags “Christ Church” and inform the worker to add them to our account. Thank you, and remember: Every one matters and “every penny counts!”



Carlyn Watts  
Senior Warden



Start looking through your house, attic, basement, garage, wherever. These items should be in good condition and clean. Someone will be only too happy to purchase them. We will be using one of the Sunday School rooms for storage. The date is **August 22nd**. We will be asking for volunteers soon. Save the date. If you have any questions you can call Lynn Brown or Lynne Orsini. Lets make this one the best ever!

For your information and convenience we are listing the members of the Prayer Chain. ANY MEMBER of the Chain can take a request for prayers. Please feel free to contact one of the following if you wish prayers for yourself, a loved one or a friend. If you wish to join the Chain, please call me.

- Mary Verenis.....527-2117
- Harriet Robinson.....743-7236
- Ann Bickford.....743-6434
- Thelma Cunningham.....966-2008
- Sue Emerson.....743-5406
- Joanne Lowell.....743-5540
- Harry or Evelyn Harper....743-5787
- Anne Stanley.....743-8902 (home)  
743-6782 (church)
- Mary Tolman.....743-5535
- Terry Keiser.....743-6765
- Ellen Male.....743-9374
- Lynne Orsini.....583-4589
- Martha Eaton.....583-4611
- Joyce Hards.....743-8618
- Lynn Brown.....743-7354
- Dorothy Cyr.....743-2552
- Beulah Ayer.....743-5943

- Mary Verenis

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Sept. - May at 8:00 & 10:00 A.M.

#### **BIBLE STUDY**

9:30 A.M.

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sept. - May at 10:00 A.M.

#### **EUCHARIST/HEALING SERVICE**

Wednesday at 9:30 A.M.

#### **MEN’S LUNCH**

Wednesdays at noon

### **GET YOUR BEEHIVE BY EMAIL!!**



We have quite a sizeable group of parishioners receiving the newsletter by email. If you’d like to join them (and receive your Beehive in color!) just tell Linda and give her your current email address. We’ll add you to the list! **OR—If you have received this newsletter by email and do not wish to, just let us know and we’ll remove your name from the email list.**